



Palmetto

Airlifter

315th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve
Charleston AFB, S.C.

September 2005

Volume 14, Number 9



photo by 1st Lt. Wayne Capps

Forward Deployed: Musa Abid, an Iraqi citizen, sits outside the north gate of Balad Air Base, Iraq waiting on medical assistance from the U.S. military. Deployed members of the 315th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron assist both U.S. service members and Iraqi nationals with much needed medical care. See pages 6 and 7 for more deployed 315th Airlift Wing personnel.

Inside:

Wing wins AFA award
page 3

Eagle Eyes Program
page 4

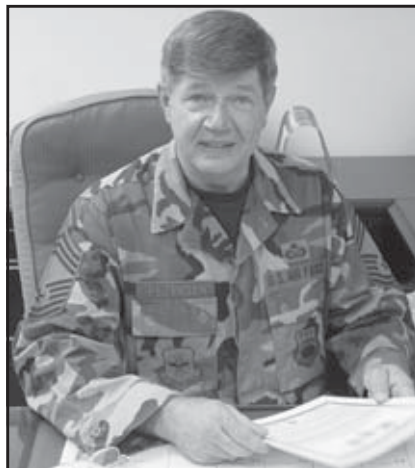
**Wing delivers quilts
to injured servicemen**
page 5

**AF changes fitness
criteria**
page 8

Spiritual strength integral to leaders

by Chief Master Sgt. Michael Petersen

315th Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sgt.



I want to share with you a message from the Chief's Sight Picture, June 28, 2005 which focuses on Airman, spiritual strength and core values.

As we assumed the soldier, put on the uniform and took the oath to defend our country we essentially (often unknowingly) made a transformation into something bigger than ourselves.

We come from many diverse backgrounds, bring different values, different goals, aspirations and different beliefs.

Perhaps our nation's greatest strength since its founding is that we can stand together with people of different origins and beliefs for a single purpose – to serve.

We embrace core values. They should be at the forefront of our daily lives to help guide us in difficult times. At our Air Force Academy, we have experienced issues with expressions of religious beliefs and perception that one set of beliefs is favored over others.

We know that religious belief can be extremely personal and that personal

disagreements can reduce our effectiveness as an Air Force team.

Specifically, sharing personal beliefs in a professional environment, one where leaders are accomplishing their duties in a chain of command or in a superior-subordinate relationship, can easily become improper influence. It can easily be resented.

Anything that detracts from teamwork usually detracts from the mission.

How should leaders approach spiritual strength? Spiritual strength is an integral part of leadership. Indeed, our finest

leaders are able to elevate the human spirit and inspire us to the greatest cause.

Often, spiritual strength is what drives us to make sacrifices for others and our nation.

For many, a commitment to a specific religious faith is a source for that spiritual strength, but not for all.

For some it is simply their heritage, the experience of community involvement, by the way we were touched by a family member, a teacher or a charity with good cause.

Faith and religious freedom were fundamental to the founding of this nation.

Chaplains play a tremendous role in our duty to arms.

Their charter is to minister to a specific faith and to facilitate ministry to those of other faiths, and to be concerned for all – including those whose spiritual strength does not come from religious belief.

Chaplains set an example of respect among all faiths.

In the future, we will see more guidance about our expression of faith. Mutual respect is a fundamental to our survival as Airmen.

Wing Speaker's Bureau needs volunteers

by Tech. Sgt. Mary Hinson

315th AW Public Affairs

I'm proud to be part of the best airlift wing in the world's best Air Force, and every time I get a chance, I tell anyone who will listen about the fantastic job the Airmen of the 315th Airlift Wing and the Air Force Reserve are doing.

Now, it's your chance to spread the word of your unit's story.

The 315th AW has this great program that pairs up community groups looking for speakers with the expert speakers they are searching for.

It's called the Speakers Bureau, and the 315th Public Affairs Office is currently looking for volunteers who would be willing to share the Air Force Reserve story with the community.

To volunteer is simple. Public affairs has volunteer questionnaires available in Bldg. 60 Room 113 or an e-mail can be

sent to mary.hinson@charleston.af.mil requesting a form. The questionnaire is used to narrow down which topics the speaker feels comfortable talking about, as well as gain some background on the speaker.

The background information is simply to be able to provide the requesting organization with a suitable speaker. For example, if a volunteer is a car fanatic, and the local car club requests a speaker, then we have a perfect match.

Once the form has been filled out, return it to the public affairs office to be entered into the speakers' database.

Then, whenever a request comes in, the database is searched to match the speaking engagement requirements with the perfect speaker. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join.

This is a great volunteer opportunity to give something back to the community that supports you, as well as a chance to let everyone know just how proud you are to be part of the 315th Airlift Wing.

315th AW wins best unit in AF Reserves

by Tech. Sgt. Mark Kleber
315 AW Public Affairs

The 315th Airlift Wing was named the Air Force Association Outstanding Reserve Unit.

The award honors the achievements of the wing for Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2004.

"It's one more validation that Charleston is the pinnacle of Air Force Reserve operations and effectiveness in the Global War on Terror," said Col. Gary Cook, 315th AW commander. "The 315th's ability to stand alone and yet side by side with the 437th Airlift Wing is a model that everyone should strive for."

Maj. Gen. James Bankers, 22nd AF commander, and Col. Cook will receive the award Sept. 12 at the Air and Space Convention in Washington, D.C.

The 315th AW won the award for its continuous exemplary performance.

The following is part of the reason why the 315th Airlift Wing won the outstanding unit award:

UTA participation, field training

The wing flew the C-17 more than 24,014 hours, including training and contingency hours. The wing delivered more than 59,146 tons of cargo and transported over 69,000 passengers to worldwide locations with the assistance of our aerial port squadrons. The wing had the largest activated/volunteer force in the history of Charleston, with more than 900 activated and more than 200 deployed.

"We had the largest voluntary program during our three year activation," said Col. Cook. "It's a feather in our cap. We did it, and I'm not sure anyone else could have done it."

Operational procedures

Team Charleston's home station launch reliability rate of 99.5 percent was phenomenal. The C-17 departure reliability rate was 95 percent, a leader in Air Mobility Command, with 16,140 worldwide departures. 315th AW is "the Busiest Wing in the Air Force Reserves."

Unit accomplishments

The wing provided 33 augmented aircrews plus required support package as wartime assets each day under volunteerism exceeding aircrew/aircraft task system tasking by 187 percent, setting a new standard for AFRC, and was selected as a model associate unit for the transitional Air Force of the future. The wing supported operations in Southwest Asia, flying more than 8,657 contingency accident-free hours.

The 315th Services Flight received the AFRC Specialized Program of the Year for Port Mortuary and supported Dover mortuary with more than 660 man-days.

The 315th CES received three AFRC awards for best Civil Engineer Unit, Readiness Flight, and Explosive Ordnance Flight.

Other mission accomplishments:

In December 2004, a 315th OG crew overcame multiple mission stopping maintenance problems to transport a critically ill 11-year-old girl to the lifesaving treatment she required.

The Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron participated in more than 41 training missions and 12 operational missions with five percent of the squadron deployed.

The 300th Airlift Squadron provided the first-ever C-17 aircrew to fly into Iran to provide humanitarian support for earthquake victims. They were also hand-picked to provide a crew to transport a scientific diving team into Palau Island to search for WWII MIAs.

The 317th AS provided airlift support for high visibility missions as the funeral of President Ronald Reagan and the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

More than 50 percent of the 701th AS served voluntarily on active duty. Operations Group members were selected by the 18 AF/CC to deploy as 362d Airlift Expeditionary Group Deputy Commander at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, overseeing the execution of 5,935 missions, delivered 66,986 tons of cargo and 133,923 combatants in

support of OEF/OIF.

The 38th and 81st APS deployed a team to a bare base at Balad AB, Iraq where they set up and organized an efficient and critical aerial port within 30 days. The 81st APS also deployed 28 personnel to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, for 120 days to direct the loading of 2,400 tons of critical war-fighting equipment and humanitarian supplies during Operation Allied Force.

Security Forces provided more than 3,500 man-days supporting stateside and overseas missions. In addition, Security Forces Raven members flew 70 missions in more than 40 countries, deployed in support of Palmetto Ghost Drug Interdiction missions, and were part of missions into Haiti providing Phoenix Raven support delivering the first team of Marines during the uprising.

The 315th MSS readiness office processed more than 660 mobilizations and 572 demobilizations, with over 495 extensions to members already mobilized.

The 315th CES participated in Silver Flag at Tyndall AFB, Fla., culminating in an exercise to test the unit's ability to perform force beddown and rapid runway repair.

The Aerospace Medicine Squadron accomplished more than 1,375 physicals, 1,100 dental exams, monitored more than 580 audiograms and administered more than 2,400 vaccinations, also supporting the active duty clinic with over 8,300 hours.

The wing achieved a 91 percent fit tested rate on the new Fit-to-Fight initiative. The 315th Airlift Wing stood up the first ever Air Force Reserve Honor Guard in August.

Conclusion

"We tripled operations during our activation and have sustained that tempo now that activation has gone away," said Col. Cook. "That's a remarkable feat."

Eagle Eyes program combats terrorism

by Staff Sgt. Jeff Kelly
315th AW Public Affairs

Ask a member of Team Charleston, and they will probably tell you that they feel relatively secure when they are within the confines of Charleston Air Force Base. Even though this is normally the case, the reality today is that there are people in our own country, state and city that would like to cause harm to military members and their operations.

The Air Force Eagle Eyes program was implemented for the sole purpose of combating this problem. The Eagle Eyes program places authority and responsibility squarely in the hands of the airmen of Charleston AFB to report any out of the ordinary or suspicious activity to security forces.

In essence, The Eagle Eyes program



graphic provided

is a base wide neighborhood watch program aimed at combating terrorist activity rather than preventing petty crime. A successful report of unusual activity to security forces could very well result in lives being saved at Charleston AFB. This is the reason that implementation and understanding of the

Eagle Eyes program is so important for every member of team Charleston.

There have been several arrests made on and around Charleston AFB as a direct result of tips given to security forces by airmen using the Eagle Eyes program.

The hard work that the Office of Special Investigations and security forces put into implementing the program has paid off by making all members of team Charleston safer and more aware of their surroundings.

If you see anything out of the ordinary please do not hesitate to report it. All tips will be investigated and you could thwart a potential enemy strike or intelligence gathering effort.

Please call 963-3600 if you would like to report anything suspicious, and keep the Eagle Eyes program working for everyone at team Charleston.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Kleber

Mayor Keith Summey of North Charleston signs a statement of support to encourage his community to support their National Guard and Reserve citizens and employees. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve recognized North Charleston as a "5-star" supporter Aug. 11 at a city council meeting. Col. Gary Cook, 315th Airlift Wing commander (left of Summey) and local guardsmen and reservists observe the signing.

Wing takes quilts to injured servicemen

by Staff Sgt. Jeff Kelly
315th AW Public Affairs

A local group belonging to the national organization, Quilts of Valor, has donated several quilts to the 315th Airlift Wing. These quilts will be taken to Iraq by 315th AW members, and given to injured service members there.

Quilts of Valor was started by Catherine Roberts of Seaford, Del., in November 2003. The mission of this organization is to make a lap quilt for every combat wounded soldier, marine, sailor and airman fighting the Global War on Terror.

Susan Thomas, founder of the local chapter of Quilts of Valor, worked with children from Summerville Presbyterian Church to produce two of the quilts given to the 315th AW. Children ranging in age from three to eight years old helped decorate the fabric squares that would eventually be sewn into the quilts.

"Myself and a lot of other mothers

with deployed children felt helpless," said Ms. Thomas. "So this is what we have done in order to honor our children and hope that they return home."

The Charleston area group, South Carolina Quilts of Valor, is comprised of 14 members ranging in age from 30 to 70 years old. Eight of the women have children in uniform and their efforts have produced over 115 quilts so far.

Many of the quilts do not make the trip overseas. South Carolina Quilts of Valor has provided quilts to eight different military hospitals here on American soil including Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Brooks Air Force Base.

"I invite anyone interested to help with our cause," said Ms. Thomas.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the South Carolina Quilts of Valor organization you can learn more about the national organization at www.quiltsforsoldiers.com. You can also call Susan Thomas at 843-224-7297.



photo provided

Col. Gary Cook, 315th AW commander, shows a quilt delivered to injured servicemen.



photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob Bailey

Staff Sgt. Forrest Aspinwall, a loadmaster with the 300th Airlift Squadron, waves from the ramp of a C-17 to a crowd gathered on Charleston's Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge during its opening ceremony June 16. The bridge, spanning 1,574 feet across the Cooper River, is the longest cable-stayed structure in North America.

NEWS

Air Force changes fitness test criteria

by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

Air Force officials are making a few changes to the physical fitness test used to assess the fitness of Airmen.

In January 2004, the Air Force underwent a major change in the way it looked at fitness. As part of the Fit to Fight program, the service adopted a more stringent physical fitness assessment that measures aerobic fitness, physical strength/endurance and body composition.

Now, 18 months into the program, senior leaders are ready to tweak the assessment to make it even better, said Lt. Gen. (Dr.) George Peach Taylor Jr., Air Force surgeon general.

"We have gotten together a group of scientists and done surveys asking folks if they like the assessment and are there issues with it," Dr. Taylor said.

"This last year we brought an update to Corona and are now in the middle of updating a few changes to the Air Force instruction that defines the fitness evaluation."

Updates to AFI 10-248 will include a change in how body composition is measured, a new table for the running portion of the test that takes into account the runner's elevation, and a change in the number of days an Airman must wait before retesting after having scored in the marginal category.

Under the original fitness evaluation,

body composition scores were based on abdominal circumference only. The updated AFI will now direct that body composition also be measured using body mass index.

BMI is calculated by dividing weight in pounds by height in inches squared, and multiplying the result by 703. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, those with a BMI between 18.5 and 24.9 are considered to be normal.

Those with a BMI of 25 or above are considered overweight.

Under the updated AFI, Airmen with a BMI of less than 25 will earn the full 30 points for body composition. For Airmen who score a BMI 25 and above, Dr. Taylor said the results of the waist measurement would be used to calculate their test score.

"That will still be an important measure of their health," he said. "Waist measure is closely related to increased risk for metabolic syndrome, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. Fat distribution is the critical indicator, as opposed to weight."

For those who score marginal, between 70 and 74.9 points, the Air Force plans to correct the time to retest at 90 days; currently, retest for marginal category is 180 days. This will be consistent with the retest time for poor scores, those less than 70.

Changes to the AFI will also include

adjustment for those at high-altitude installations. This applies to those at installations with an elevation of 5,000 feet or greater, Dr. Taylor said.

"We'll use the formula for altitude calculations recommended by the National Collegiate Athletic Association," he said.

The Air Force continues to look at ways to improve the fitness evaluation and remains committed to the Fit to Fight program, Dr. Taylor said, because the program has proven successful.

"Participation at fitness centers is up 30 percent now," he said. "And if you go to the field, like in Iraq or Afghanistan, you will find a continued focus on health."

The assessment is not the focus of the fitness program, but a tool to assess the commander's fitness training program.

"I want to make very clear that my focus is not on passing a fitness test once a year," said Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, in his Oct. 17, 2003, Chief's Sight Picture.

"More important, we are changing the culture of the Air Force. This is about our preparedness to deploy and fight. It's about warriors. It is about instilling an expectation that makes fitness a daily standard — an essential part of your service."

Dr. Taylor said he hopes the changes to the AFI will be made by late August or early

Air Force Reserve seeks full-time applicants

The Air Force Reserve is looking for officers and enlisted people to fill full-time Active Guard and Reserve positions.

In the past 15 years, the number of AGR slots has increased from 400 to more than 1,900 authorizations.

"We have opportunities in many specialties but a larger concentration in career fields such security forces, combat rescue, intelligence, maintenance, space, pilot and personnel," said Maj. Dawn M. Sutor, deputy director of the AGR Management Office in the Pentagon's Office of Air Force Reserve. "Currently, Air Force Reserve Command's hard-to-fill positions are in security forces, intelligence and combat rescue. We are actively seeking volunteers for these programs."

Reservists in the AGR program serve under the authority of

Title 10 of the U.S. Code and receive most of the benefits afforded to the active force.

They qualify for an active-duty retirement, provided they attain career status and can serve 20 years active federal military service.

The program offers tours of duty on the Air Staff; at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; at Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver; in AFRC units; and with other major commands.

Information about vacancies and application procedures, as well as more details on the program is available on the AGR Management Office's restricted Web site at www.re.hq.af.mil/agr/agrhome2.html. (AFRC News Service)

RECOGNITION

Kudos

Promotions

Promotion Correction

Chief Master Sergeant

Michael Schmiede, 315th CES

Lieutenant Colonel

Robert Atkatz, 701st AS
 Stephen Bartosh, 701st AS
 James Caldwell, 317th AS
 Robert Donoho, 317th AS
 Dana Evans, 317th AS
 James Kerry, 300th AS
 Christopher Kauffman, 317th AS
 Scott Mehaffey, 317th AS
 Barry Peterson, 701st AS
 Gerald Schenck, 317th AS
 William Stroessel, 701st AS
 Benjamin Vorhees, 300th AS
 Chap. Carl Yost, 315th AW
 Michael Zaccardo, 317th AS

Major

Chap. John Painter, 315th AW

Captain

Sean Burke, 300th AS
 Wayne Capps, 315th AW
 Christopher Chaffin, 300th AS
 Chad Cheatwood, 300th AS
 Thomas Folsom, 315th AES
 Bernadine Ford, 315th AW
 James Graham, 315th AW
 Frederick Hosenfeld, 315th ALCF
 Maurice Jackson, 315th AMDS
 Clinton Johnson, 300th AS
 Patrick Kennedy, 315th AES
 Brennan McDonald, 300th AS
 Lauren Presnell, 317th AS
 Jason Shirey, 317th AS
 Edward Stokes, 300th AS
 Roseann Teckman, 315th AES
 Jesse Ulrickson, 317th AS

Senior Master Sergeant

Jeffrey Cary, 315th MXS
 Valerie Collins, 38th APS
 Keith Schell, 38th APS
 Dana Rogers, 315th AMDS

Technical sergeant

Larry Penn, 300th AS
 Matthew Tubby, 81st APS

Staff sergeant

Ladrena Davis, 315th MSS

Senior Airman

Shertori Thomas, 81st APS

Airman 1st Class

Janice Seals, 315th AMXS

Awards, decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

Col. Randal Bright, 315th OG
 Lt. Col Allan Swartzmiller, 315th OG
 Capt. Glenda McMichael, 315th AES
 Senior Master Sgt. Delmar Davids, 315th ALCF
 Master Sgt. Harold Carter, 315th AES
 Master Sgt. Evans Grant Jr., 315th MXS
 Tech. Sgt. Eric Svensson, 315th AMXS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Tech. Sgt. Roger George, 38th APS
 Tech. Sgt. Larry Stewart, 38th APS
 Tech. Sgt. John Wittchow, 315th AMXS
 Senior Airman Kelvin Bonnette, 38th APS

Air Force Achievement Medal

Maj. Timothy Stevens, 701st AS
 Master Sgt. Denise Lacourse, 315th AES
 Staff Sgt. Joye Kinser, 81st APS

SNCO/NCO Induction

Master Sergeant

William Barrow, 315th AMXS
 Sheryl Blackwell, 81st APS
 Brian Bright, 315th AW
 Ramon Cabon, 81st APS
 Vivian Caraviello, 315th AES
 Julio Cubano, 701st AS
 Evelyn Fay, 315th MSG
 Ann Jones, 81st APS
 Kimberley McClintock, 315th AMDS
 William Ogden, 81st APS
 Joel Prosser, 315th AES
 Rosalee Ragin, 315th MSS
 Deborah Ross, 317th AS
 Jack Smythe, 701st AS
 Kathryn Taylor, 315th MSS

Staff Sergeant

Lawrence Anderson, 84th APS
 Jenny Bakopoulos, 315th AMDS
 Marissa Bethea, 315th CES
 Kelvin Bonnette, 38th APS
 Gary Coffman, 315th AMXS
 Tracy Cornett, 53rd APS
 Robert Crumpton, 315th CES
 Ladrena Davis, 315th MSS
 Jeffrey Dubert, 315th Amxs
 Stewart Edmiston, 53rd APS
 Patrick Edwards, 315th OSS
 Andrew Grove, 315th AMDS
 Robbie Harrell, 84th APS
 Angela Harvey, 38th APS
 Keary Hudgens, 53rd APS

Team Charleston Spotlight



Name: Staff Sgt. Nicole Singletary

Unit: 315th Civil Engineering Squadron

Position: Full spectrum threat response journeyman

Civilian job: Student

Hometown: Lake City, S.C.

Best part of my job: Meeting new people while teaching chemical refresher class

Most challenging part of my job: Make personnel believe in chemical gear

Pet peeve: When people do not allow another person to talk because they keep talking over the other person

Hobbies: Writing poetry

Ideal vacation: Paris, France

Something people don't know

about me: I like watching operas

Jan Hurgten, 317th AS
 Elton Johnson, 81st APS
 Paul King, 315th SPS
 Frank Lauria, 84th APS
 Andrew Maddox, 315th CES
 Timothy Martin, 317th AS
 Damon Mazyck, 315th AMDS
 Stacey Parker, 315th AMDS
 Albert Pempsell, 300th AS
 Sonia Rodriguez, 315th CES
 Shalena Sarver, 53rd APS
 Latanya Shannon, 84th APS
 Jimmy Sumner, 81st APS
 Christian Swygert, 315th LRF
 Laura Tumlinso, 300th AS
 Stevie Wadley, 315th CES
 Edward Wilkerson, 53rd APS

Hails, farewells, enlistments

The 315th Airlift Wing would like to welcome its **new members**.

315th AMDS

Senior Airman Alana McNeil

315th AES

Senior Airman Carolyn Brunson
Staff Sgt. Venus Flowers
Staff Sgt. Benjamin McClain
Capt. Shean Galvin

300 AS

Maj. William Radford

701st AS

Senior Airman Jacqueline Jackson

315th AMXS

Staff Sgt. Mark Kijewski
Staff Sgt. Ronald King
Staff Sgt. James Lange
Staff Sgt. William Linder
Senior Airman Joseph McElveen
Master Sgt. Clifton Hudson

315th MXS

Staff Sgt. Alonge Gregory
Staff Sgt. Michael Bunting

38th APS

Staff Sgt. Joseph Casciotta

Airman David Jones
Staff Sgt. Joseph Norris

53rd APS

Staff Sgt. William Daniels
Airman 1st Class Ted Smith

81st APS

Airman 1st Class Christopher Little
Senior Airman Nathan Zdunich
2nd Lt. Franklin Rinaca

84th APS

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Sharp

315th CES

Senior Airman Thomas Cousin
Staff Sgt. Isaac Stegman

315th SFS

Senior Airman James dube

315th MSS

Staff Sgt. Jessica Townsend

We would also like to say good-bye to those **members retiring, separating or transferring**. Thank you for your service and dedication to this country and wing.

315th MSG

Col. Frank Taylor

38th APS

Senior Airman Jenna McGee
Staff Sgt. Charles Vandiver
Senior Airman Kristen Reddick

53rd APS

Tech. Sgt. James Evans
Tech. Sgt. Donald West

81st APS

Senior Airman Emily Lawley
Senior Airman Jennifer Wisniewski

84 APS

Staff Sgt. Alfred Jones
Airman 1st Class Israel Prophitt

315th MSS

Tech. Sgt. Janet Clayton
Master Sgt. Woodrow Fryer
1st Lt. Len Sobieski

315th CES

Master Sgt. Bobby James
Master Sgt. Ronald Gore
Tech. Sgt. Sherry Jones
Airman 1st Class Barry Washington

315th AMXS

Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Angel

Tech. Sgt. Herbert Churn
Airman 1st Class Jennifer Rabypelt

Congratulations to the **members reenlisting**. Thank you for your commitment and dedication.

300th AS

Staff Sgt. William Whitmill

317th AS

Senior Master Sgt. Barry Carter

701st AS

Tech. Sgt. Shonna Mackelprang

315th AMXS

Tech. Sgt. Michael Chiodo
Staff Sgt. Robert Jones
Master Sgt. Christopher Mong
Tech. Sgt. Alexnader Risher

315th MXS

Tech. Sgt. Stephen Sarkany

315th MOF

Tech. Sgt. Ray Belcher

84th APS

Staff Sgt. Brandon Bailey

315th CES

Staff Sgt. Lisa Farley
Master Sgt. Kelly Moyer

UTA Significant Events

A Flight, Sept. 10

9 a.m. 315th AW Alumni, bldg. 59
1 p.m. Human Resource Development Council, wing conference room
6 p.m. Air Force Ball, North Charleston Coliseum

A Flight, Sept. 11

10 a.m. Wing commander's call, base theater

B Flight, Sept. 18

10 a.m. Wing commander's call, base theater



Three presented historical coin

Col. Frank Taylor, 315th Mission Support Group
Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Angel, 315th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Mrs. Debra Baldwin, 315th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The historical is a numbered coin presented by the wing commander to individuals for excellent achievements.

315th AW third quarter, wing quarterly awards winners are:

Airman of the Quarter: Senior Airman Donald Schmotzer, 701st AS

Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter: Staff Sgt. Jeffery Kelly, 315th AW Public Affairs

Senior NCO of the Quarter: Master Sgt. Thomas Crawford, 315th AW Public Affairs

Company Grade Officer of the Quarter: 1st Lt. Wayne Capps, 315th AW Public Affairs

Field Grade Officer of the Quarter: Maj. David Snyder, 300th AS

* Significant events as of 19 Aug 05

BRIEFS

Filing travel vouchers

Did you take leave during your TDY and need to file a travel voucher?

If so, you are required to provide the following information on your travel voucher to ensure accurate and prompt payment:

—Document leave in Block 15d Itinerary using 'LV' on the travel voucher

—Supervisors MUST sign part 20c reviewing the document as a "true/accurate statement"

—Document leave dates in block 29a on the travel voucher

—Attach Part III of AF Form 988, Leave Request showing leave was taken/validated

If these items are not completed — your travel voucher cannot be processed. Please contact customer service at 963-3700 if you have any questions.

Family Separation Allowances

—Is only authorized if separated from family for more than 30 days

—Dependent must be living in same household as member to receive entitlement

—If family joins you for more than 30 days - entitlement will be stopped and any over payment will be collected

Government Travel Card —

—If you have a government travel card it is mandatory to be used for the following items:

—Mandatory for Lodging

—Rental Car

—Airline tickets

—cash advances

If you do not use your GTC you can not get reimbursed for the cash advance fee

Confidential reporting

Military people who are victims of sexual assault now have the option of making a confidential report and receiving medical assistance without initiating a military investigation. A new Department of Defense policy establishes sexual assault response coordinators at all military installations, including Air Force Reserve Command bases. SARCs help people who want to report sexual assault, without involving law enforce-

ment, and who may need assistance in accessing military and community support. Maj. Denise Thompson, chief of behavioral health at AFRC headquarters at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., said interim SARCs are trained and in place at all command bases. The coordinator is Veronica Griffin and she can be reached at 963-7272.

FEHB premiums extended for Reservists, Guardsmen

Department of Defense civilian employees called to active duty supporting a contingency operation may continue their Federal Employees' Health Benefits coverage, and have the agency pay their share of the premiums, for up to 24 months.

This applies only to reserve component civilian employees called or ordered to active duty supporting a contingency operation on or after Sept. 14, 2001.

The law extended coverage from 18 to 24 months, and provides that agency-paid premiums start the date an employee is placed on leave without pay or separated from civil service to perform active duty. Previously, coverage and agency payment of premiums began the date the employee entered active duty.

Questions may be addressed to a BEST benefits counselor by calling (800) 616-3775. Employees located in foreign areas can dial a toll-free direct-access number for the country they are in, then (800) 616-3775.

For more information, go online to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/docs/FEHB_24_Months.pdf

Death benefits, insurance increase for servicemembers

Compensation for the survivors of servicemembers who die in combat zones and insurance coverage for servicemembers will both increase significantly this year. An increase in death gratuity benefits from \$12,500 to \$100,000 already has taken effect, and Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance maximum coverage will increase to \$400,000 starting Sept. 1.

The increase in death benefits took effect May 11 and is dated retroactively to Oct. 7, 2001. This means that

survivors of servicemembers who died between Oct. 7, 2001, and May 11, 2005, will receive the increased benefits, as will survivors of servicemembers who die from May 11 on.

When the increase in SGLI coverage takes effect Sept. 1, it also will be dated retroactively to Oct. 7, 2001. Survivors of servicemembers who died in a combat zone, combat operations or combat-related situations between the October date and Sept. 1 will receive \$150,000 in transitional insurance, which will bring them to \$400,000.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123010981>

Stand down against homelessness

The Stand-Down Against Homelessness snack and hygiene collection has been going on for two months, according to Chaplain John Painter of the 315th Airlift Wing Chaplain's Office.

They have completed 125 hygiene packs but are especially in need of toothpaste, washcloths and shaving cream.

It's time to collect snack items needed to put together snack food packs. These packs typically include a canned meat product (Vienna sausage, potted meat, beannie-wennie, etc); fruit cup; granola, Nutri-grain, etc. type bar; hard candy; juice box; plasticware necessary for fruit cup and canned meat; and napkin.

All of these items can be purchased in bulk at warehouse food stores. At bulk prices last year, the cost of each food pack containing the items listed above averaged at \$1.

The goal for Stand-Down Against Homelessness is 700 packs.

If your group wants to collect funds and bring them to the chaplain's office, the chaplain's assistants will shop for you and give you a receipt.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Jeannie Beaver of the wing chaplain's office at 963-3653.

Keeping Team Charleston riders safe

by Maj. Bill Walsh
315th AW Public Affairs

Motorcyclists were out in the rain but not for a joy ride on this wet Saturday. These bikers were taking part in a training program sponsored by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation in order to drive on Charleston Air Force Base.

"We talk about things like risk awareness, assessment and management," said course instructor Tech. Sgt. Robert Grimsley of the 315th Family Services Flight.

Sergeant Grimsley should know. When he's not wearing an Air Force uniform, he's a sergeant with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office and supervisor of the motor unit that patrols the roadways of one of the largest counties in the state. He has been a motorcycle police officer for 15 years.

"It's important for anyone who rides a motorcycle to know the proper way to ride," he said. "Most people forget how powerful some of these new bikes are."

The course consists of around four hours of classroom time, a driving test and written test.

"It's a big help and really sharpens your skills like forward and rear breaking from 20 miles per hour," said Tech. Sgt. Brad Beam of the 315th Maintenance Squadron who graduated from the course. "You can also get a break on your insurance."



photo by 1st Lt. Wayne Capps

Motorcycle safety course instructor Tech. Sgt. Robert Grimsley, 315th Family Services Flight, talks with Christopher Woods, 315th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. As a civilian, Grimsley supervises the motor unit for Charleston County Sheriff's Office.

The courses are available three or four times a year from Trident Technical College in Charleston, but are available through Family Services at various time of the year.



315th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve
Charleston AFB, S.C.

September 2005

Volume 14, Number 9

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military service. Contents of the *Palmetto Airlifter* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the DoD or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 315th Airlift Wing, 218 N. Bates Street, Charleston AFB, SC 29404-4917. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

Commander
PAO
Chief, Public Affairs
NCOIC
Editor
Associate Editor
Airlifter Reporter
Airlifter Reporter
Student Hires

Col. Gary L. Cook
Maj. Bill Walsh
1st Lt. Wayne Capps
Master Sgt. Tom Crawford
Debra Baldwin
Tech. Sgt. Mark Kleber
Tech. Sgt. Mary Hinson
Staff Sgt. Jeff Kelly
Tony Clark

Deadline for article submission is the first day of the month preceding publication. For more information, call Public Affairs at (843) 963-2034, DSN 673-2034 or e-mail address debbie.baldwin@charleston.af.mil

315th AW/PA
218 N. Bates Street
Charleston AFB, SC 29404-4917